

CLAIMS

1. A telephone interpretation system for interpreting a call between a caller and a callee who speak different languages through an interpreter, the telephone interpretation system comprising:

connecting means for connecting a caller terminal, a callee terminal, and an interpreter terminal; and

communication means for conducting voice communications among the terminals connected by the connecting means, wherein:

the communication means has a first voice transmission function of synthesizing a voice from the callee terminal and a voice from the interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the caller terminal, a second voice transmission function of synthesizing a voice from the caller terminal and the voice from the interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the callee terminal, and a third voice transmission function of synthesizing the voice from the caller terminal and the voice from the callee terminal and transmitting the resultant to the interpreter terminal;

the telephone interpretation system further has an unnecessary side voice suppressing function of suppressing an unnecessary voice, either the voice from the interpreter terminal to be supplied to the first voice transmission

function or the voice from the interpreter terminal to be supplied to the second voice transmission function, by a command from the interpreter terminal;

the first voice transmission function has a callee voice suppressing function of suppressing the voice from the callee terminal when the voice from the interpreter terminal is detected; and

the second voice transmission function has a caller voice suppressing function of suppressing the voice from the caller terminal when the voice from the interpreter terminal is detected.

2. A telephone interpretation system for interpreting a call between a caller and a callee who speak different languages through an interpreter, the telephone interpretation system comprising:

connecting means for connecting a caller terminal, a callee terminal, and an interpreter terminal; and

communication means for conducting voice communications among the terminals connected by the connecting means,

wherein:

the communication means has a first voice transmission function of switching between a voice from the callee terminal and a voice from the interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the caller terminal, a second voice transmission function of switching a voice from the caller terminal and the

voice from the interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the callee terminal, and a third voice transmission function of synthesizing the voice from the caller terminal and the voice from the callee terminal and transmitting the resultant to the interpreter terminal;

the telephone interpretation system further has an unnecessary side voice suppressing function of suppressing an unnecessary voice, either the voice from the interpreter terminal to be supplied to the first voice transmission function or the voice from the interpreter terminal to be supplied to the second voice transmission function, by a command from the interpreter terminal;

the first voice transmission function has a function of interrupting the voice from the callee terminal and transmitting the voice from the interpreter terminal when the voice from the interpreter terminal is detected; and

the second voice transmission function has a function of interrupting the voice from the caller terminal and transmitting the voice from the interpreter terminal when the voice from the interpreter terminal is detected.

3. A telephone interpretation system for interpreting a call between a caller and a callee who speak different languages through an interpreter, the telephone interpretation system comprising:

connecting means for connecting a caller terminal, a

callee terminal, and an interpreter terminal; and

communication means for conducting voice communications among the terminals connected by the connecting means, wherein:

5 the communication means has a first voice transmission function of multiplexing a voice from the callee terminal and a voice from the interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the caller terminal, a second voice transmission function of multiplexing a voice from the caller terminal and
10 the voice from the interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the callee terminal, and a third voice transmission function of multiplexing the voice from the caller terminal and the voice from the callee terminal and transmitting the resultant to the interpreter terminal; and
15 the telephone interpretation system further has an unnecessary side voice suppressing function of suppressing an unnecessary voice, either the voice from the interpreter terminal to be supplied to the first voice transmission function or the voice from the interpreter terminal to be
20 supplied to the second voice transmission function, by a command from the interpreter terminal.

4. The telephone interpretation system according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein

 the communication means has a function of recording the
25 voice from the caller terminal, the voice from the callee

terminal, and the voice from the interpreter terminal; and a function of reproducing and transmitting the recorded voices by request from the terminals.

5. The telephone interpretation system according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein:

the connecting means has an interpreter registration table containing at least the language types possible for interpreters to interpret and terminal numbers of the interpreters; and

the telephone interpretation system has a function of accepting a call from the caller terminal; a function of acquiring a terminal number of the callee, the language type of the callee, and the language type of the caller from the caller terminal of which the call is accepted; a function of extracting the terminal number of an interpreter by referencing the interpreter registration table based on the language type of the callee and the language type of the caller acquired; a function of calling the interpreter terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the interpreter; and a function of calling the callee terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the callee.

6. A telephone interpretation system for interpreting a call between a caller and callee who speak different languages through a first interpreter who interprets the language of the callee into the language of the caller and a second

interpreter who interprets the language of the caller into the language of the callee, the telephone interpretation system comprising:

connecting means for connecting a caller terminal, a
5 callee terminal, a first interpreter terminal, and a second interpreter terminal; and

communication means for conducting voice communications among the terminals connected by the connecting means, wherein:

10 the communication means has a first voice transmission function of synthesizing a voice from the callee terminal and a voice from the first interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the caller terminal, a second voice transmission function of synthesizing a voice from the caller
15 terminal and the voice from the second interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the callee terminal, a third voice transmission function of transmitting at least the voice from the callee terminal to the first interpreter terminal, and a fourth voice transmission function of transmitting at
20 least the voice from the caller terminal to the second interpreter terminal;

the first voice transmission function has a callee voice suppressing function of suppressing the voice from the callee terminal when the voice from the first interpreter terminal is
25 detected; and

the second voice transmission function has a caller voice suppressing function of suppressing the voice from the caller terminal when the voice from the second interpreter terminal is detected.

5 7. A telephone interpretation system for interpreting a call between a caller and callee who speak different languages through a first interpreter who interprets the language of the callee into the language of the caller and a second interpreter who interprets the language of the caller into the language of the callee, the telephone interpretation system comprising:

connecting means for connecting a caller terminal, a callee terminal, a first interpreter terminal, and a second interpreter terminal; and

15 communication means for conducting voice communications among the terminals connected by the connecting means, wherein:

the communication means has a first voice transmission function of switching between a voice from the callee terminal and a voice from the first interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the caller terminal, a second voice transmission function of switching between a voice from the caller terminal and a voice from the second interpreter terminal and transmitting the resultant to the callee terminal,

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25 a third voice transmission function of transmitting at least

the voice from the callee terminal to the first interpreter terminal, and a fourth voice transmission function of transmitting at least the voice from the caller terminal to the second interpreter terminal;

5 the first voice transmission function has a function of intercepting the voice from the callee terminal and transmitting the voice from the first interpreter terminal when the voice from the first interpreter terminal is detected; and

10 the second voice transmission function includes the function of intercepting the voice from the caller terminal and transmitting the voice from the second interpreter terminal when the voice from the second interpreter terminal is detected.

15 8. A telephone interpretation system for interpreting a call between a caller and callee who speak different languages through a first interpreter who interprets the language of the callee into the language of the caller and a second interpreter who interprets the language of the caller into the
20 language of the callee, the telephone interpretation system comprising:

 connecting means for connecting a caller terminal, a callee terminal, a first interpreter terminal, and a second interpreter terminal; and

25 communication means for conducting voice communications

among the terminals connected by the connecting means,
wherein:

the communication means has a first voice transmission
function of multiplexing a voice from the callee terminal and
5 a voice from the first interpreter terminal and transmitting
the resultant to the caller terminal, a second voice
transmission function of multiplexing a voice from the caller
terminal and a voice from the second interpreter terminal and
transmitting the resultant to the callee terminal, a third
10 voice transmission function of transmitting at least the voice
from the callee terminal to the first interpreter terminal,
and a fourth voice transmission function of transmitting at
least the voice from the caller terminal to the second
interpreter terminal.

15 9. The telephone interpretation system according to any
one of claims 6 to 8, wherein

the communication means has a function of recording the
voice from the caller terminal, the voice from the callee
terminal, the voice from the first interpreter terminal, and
20 the voice from the second interpreter terminal; and a function
of reproducing and transmitting the recorded voices by request
from the terminals.

10. The telephone interpretation system according to any
one of claims 6 to 9, wherein:

25 the connecting means has an interpreter registration

table containing at least the language types possible for interpreters to interpret and terminal numbers of the interpreters; and

the telephone interpretation system further has a
5 function of accepting a call from the caller terminal; a function of acquiring a terminal number of the callee, the language type of the callee, and the language type of the caller from the caller terminal of which the call is accepted; a function of extracting the terminal number of the first
10 interpreter by referencing the interpreter registration table based on the language type of the callee and the language type of the caller acquired; a function of calling the first interpreter terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the first interpreter; a function of extracting the terminal
15 number of the second interpreter by referencing the interpreter registration table based on the language type of the caller and the language type of the callee acquired; a function of calling the second interpreter terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the second interpreter; and a
20 function of calling the callee terminal by using the acquired terminal number of the callee.

11. The telephone interpretation system according to claim 5 or 10, wherein:

the interpreter registration table contains selection
25 information for selecting interpreters; and

the connecting means has a function of acquiring an interpreter selection condition from the caller terminal; and a function of extracting the terminal number(s) of an appropriate interpreter(s) by referencing the interpreter registration table based on the interpreter selection condition acquired.

12. The telephone interpretation system according to any one of claims 5, 10, and 11, wherein:

the interpreter registration table contains availability flags for indicating whether or not the interpreters are available; and

the connecting means has a function of extracting the terminal number(s) of an available interpreter(s) by referencing the availability flags in the interpreter registration table.

13. The telephone interpretation system according to any one of claims 5, 10, 11, and 12, wherein:

the interpreter registration table contains accounting information on the interpreters; and

the connecting means has a function of measuring the time for the caller terminal or callee terminal to receive interpretation services, and a function of calculating fees from the measured time and the accounting information registered in the interpreter registration table.